ಶ್ರೀ ಜಿ. ಪುಟ್ಟಸ್ವಾಮಿ.—ಈ ಕೆಲಸ ಪೂರ್ಣಗೊಂಡ ಮೇಲೆ ಮಾಡಿತ್ತೀರೊ? ಏಕೆಂದರೆ ವಸತಿ ಸೌಕರ್ಯಗಳನ್ನು ಅನುಕೂಲ ಮಾಡಿದರೆ ಕೆಲಸ ಜಾಗ್ರತೆಯಾಗಿ ಆಗುತ್ತದೆಂಬುದು ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಗಮನಕ್ಕೆ ಬಂದಿದ್ದೀಯೇ?

ಶ್ರೀ ಎಂ. ಮಲ್ಲಿಕಾರ್ಜುನ ಸ್ವಾಮಿ.—ಈಗಲೇ ಮಾಡಬೇಕು; 1985 ಇಸವಿ ಡಿಸೆಂಬರ್ ಒಳಗೆ ಕೆಲಸ ಮುಗಿಸಿಕೊಡುತ್ತೇವೆಂದು ಅವರು ಪಾಗ್ದಾನ ಮಾಡಿರುವುದರಿಂದ ಈಗಲೇ ಮಾಡಿಸ ಬೇಕಾಗುತ್ತದೆ.

ಅಧ್ಯಕ್ಷರು.—ಇಲ್ಲಿಗೆ ಪ್ರಶ್ನೋತ್ತರಗಳು ಮುಗಿದವು.

10-00 A.M.

Meseage from the Chairman L. C.—Announcement

MADAM SPEAKER.—I have received the following message from The Chairman, Karnataka Legislative Council :

> " As required by rule 106 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Karnataka Legislative Council, I send herewith the following Bills which have been agreed to by the Legislative Council without amendments on 17th November, 1976.—
>
> 1. The Registration (Karnataka) (Seaond Amendment) Bill 1976
> 2. The Karnataka Rent Control (Second Amendment) Bill. 1976
> 3. The Karnataka Urban Land Tax (Amendment) Bill, 1916,
> 4. The Karnataka Improvement Boards (Amendment) Bill. 1976
>
> These Bills had been passed by the Legislative Assembly earlier.

RECOGNITION OF OPPOSITION PARTY

I have received a letter signed by 22 members of the Opposition stating that they have formed themselves into a united Opposition party for purposes of functioning in the House. They have also indi cated their common programme for purpose of functioning inthe House They have further given the names of office bearers. They have agreed to work under one leader and one Whip. They have requested me to recognise them as the Opposition Party in the House and to recognise their leader as the leader of the Opposition in the House.

I have given careful thought to their request. As the House is aware, the question of recognition of Samyukta Vidhayak Dal came before the House in the year 1970. A similar organisation formed by the members of the Opposition belonging to different political parties was recognised as the opposition party by my predecessor, Sri S.D. Kothavale on 23rd February, 1970.

I may mention here that the presiding Officers Conference has also considered this matter in the light of political changes after the General Elections in 1967, In addition to the traditional principles for recognition of a parliamentary party in the House, it has been laid down as follows:

> "If the constituent Groups forming a Party for the purpose of proper functioning of the House with a view to strengthening Parliamentary democracy have a common programme or Parliamentary work a common organisation and have one Leader and one Whip to speak on their behalf inside the House, there is no objection to necessary recognition being given to that party. This applies to both the Government and Opposition Parties and no distinction can be made between a Government Party and an Opposition Party similarly formed."

In the light of the above recommendation of the Presiding Officers conference I feel that the newly formed party also deserves recognition. The party has the following 22 members:

Sriyuts.—

1. H.D. Deve Gowda,
2. V.B. Nooli,
3. B. Puttaswamaiah,
4. Konandur Lingappa,
5. D. Poosalingam,
6. C. Byre Gowda,
7. M. Rajashekar Murthy,
8. B.B. Sayanak,
9. P.A. Pawashe,
10. B.V. Patil,
11. T.R. Shamanna,
12. S.Y. Patil,
13. M. Venkatalingaiah,
14. A. Sharnappa,
15. K.M. Naganna,
16. Prabhakara Reddy,
17. N.B. Sirdesai,
18. N.S. Guruseddappa,
19. B.S. Veerabhadrappa,
20. P.B. Patil,
21. G.N. Patil,
22. Kagodu Thimmappa.

They have Sri H. D. Deve Gowda as their Leader, Sri Kagodu Thimappa as their Deputy Leader and Sri T R. Shamanna as their Chief Whip. Since the strength of the above party satisfies the condition laid down that a political party for its recognition should have the minimum strength to form the quorum, in the House I recognise the United Opposition Party as a party on the floor of the House. I also recognise Sri H.D. Deve Gowda as their Leader and as Leader of the Opposition here.

SRI M S. KRISHNAN — I would only like to say one word about this. As far as this particular aspect is concerned, we are not in it. We as the Communist Party are going to sit separately and we have nothing to do with this group.

MADAM SPEAKER.—It is very obvious.

CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTERS OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

(i) *re : Rates high Charged by druggists*

SRI T.R. SHAMANNA.(Fort)— I call the attention of the Hon. Minister for Health to the unreasonable rates charged for essential medicines/drugs by the Druggists in Co-operation with officials of the Drug Controllers' Officer.

SRI H.M. CHANNABASAPPA (Minister for Health)— I wish to make the following statement.

It is not true that unreasonable rates are charged for essential medicines by Druggists in Collusion with the Drugs Control Officials in the State. The rates of essential medicines are very closely watched by the Department and the Inspectors of the Drugs Control Department carry out inspections in all parts of the State. The rates of all drugs are controlled by the Government of Inda under the Drugs (Price Control) Order 1970 issued under the Essential Commodities Act. The salient features of this Order are as follows.-

1. (a) Prescribing norms for fixing the maximum prices and th making of prices for the drugs by every manufacturer in the country,

(b) fixing margin of profit for the trade.

(c) fixing the retail price for the consumer

(d) Insisting on the declaration of the maximum retail price on the labels and the containers of drugs as well as in the price list supplied by the manufacturers.

2. In Karnataka State, these conditions are effectively enforced and all the Drugs manufactured as well as stocked for sale, are bearing the maximum retail prices.

3. The officers of the Department inspect the Drugs Licencees of the manufatcurers well as Chemists and Druggists. They check the prices from the Cash Memos/Bills/Invoices, etc., and verify whether there is any contravention of law by overcharging or overselling any drug.

4. Whenever cases of contraventions are detected, action is taken against the persons who have contravened the above order.